

**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman [politicoplaybook@politico.com]  
**Sent:** 4/11/2018 10:19:59 AM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: Judging Zuck's Day One performance and the high-stakes Capitol Hill cash race

[View online version](#) | [Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.](#)

## POLITICO PLAYBOOK

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By JAKE SHERMAN ([sherman@politico.com](mailto:sherman@politico.com), [@JakeSherman](#)), ANNA PALMER ([anna@politico.com](mailto:anna@politico.com), [@apalmerdc](#)) and DANIEL LIPPMAN ([daniel@politico.com](mailto:daniel@politico.com), [@dlippman](#))

[Listen to today's Audio Briefing](#) | [Subscribe on Apple Podcasts](#) | [Visit the online home of Playbook](#)

### DRIVING THE DAY

**REVIEWING ZUCK'S PERFORMANCE ... NANCY SCOLA:** "A composed and contrite Mark Zuckerberg held up under hours of grilling by more than 40 senators Tuesday - but his performance did little to mask Facebook's growing political problems in Washington. ...

**"Here's the question that all of us got to answer:** What do we tell our constituents, given what's happened here, why we should let you self-regulate?' [South Carolina GOP Sen. Lindsey] Graham asked. ... 'I don't want to have to vote to regulate Facebook, but by God I will,' [Louisiana GOP Sen. John] Kennedy said. ... 'In the past, many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been willing to defer to tech companies' efforts to regulated themselves,' [South Dakota Sen. John] Thune said. 'But this may be changing.'"

<https://politi.co/2EBWUuw>

**HEADLINE IN THE INFORMATION**, the top insider Silicon Valley publication: **"Zuckerberg Avoids Damage, Can't Bridge Trust Gap,"** by Cory Weinberger: "Senators didn't inspire confidence that they would be able to regulate the internet economy in a meaningful way. Lawmakers sometimes stumbled through technical descriptions, both of complicated advertising systems and some more basic distinctions like understanding how WhatsApp works.

**"Many significant questions-such as Sen. Graham's question** on monopoly power-weren't fully examined because the format of the hearing didn't allow for much back and forth. ...

**"But Mr. Zuckerberg isn't lying when he says it doesn't seem like Facebook** is a monopoly. In my reporting on the company over the last two years, I've found Facebook to be a company concerned with its own survival. Product teams are determined to expand the company into new markets such as television and in-home smart devices. Mr. Zuckerberg is famously paranoid about missing the next platform shift and doesn't always pick correctly ... The contradictions run deeper. While the company increased users' privacy controls, Facebook has wanted to build tools helping advertisers prove that Facebook ads drove in-store sales, which requires more tracking of people's locations." **For subscribers**  
<http://bit.ly/2v3sAtc>

-- **@guycecil**: "One thing is clear from the Facebook hearing. Many Senators on this committee have no idea how any of this works, are reading staff-written questions & have very little ability to ask meaningful follow up questions."

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- A NEW HARVARD INSTITUTE OF POLITICS POLL** finds that most young people don't trust Facebook to do the right thing. Only 27 percent trust Facebook while 71 percent don't. Twenty-two percent trust Trump to do the right thing versus 75 percent who don't. Google and Amazon are much more trusted. **More results**  
<https://politi.co/2GOwETr> ... <http://bit.ly/2H9zW3d> ... **Toplines** <http://bit.ly/2GRTQML>

**QUICK NOTE ABOUT TODAY'S HEARING ... THE HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE** has Zuck today at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2123. He'll face a completely different beast over there. **CHAIRMAN GREG WALDEN** of Oregon is a mild-mannered and even-keeled man. But if the senators look for answers, many House lawmakers look for moments. In 2010, on this same committee, Texas Rep. Joe Barton apologized for what he termed a White House "shakedown" of oil companies after the spill in the Gulf of Mexico. (Barton later apologized, as Republicans called on him to step down from his committee leadership slot.) The House is younger than the Senate, so you might have a few more technologically literate voices.

#### **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK ... THE CASH RACE**

-- **PELOSI RAISES MORE THAN \$4.5 MILLION IN ONE WEEK**: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's fundraising dominance continues to be on display. The California Democrat brought in more than \$4.5 million through events and meetings during the first week of April for the DCCC, her campaign committees and House Democratic candidates. The cross-

country tour included stops in Dallas, Santa Fe, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Pelosi's annual signature Nancy Pelosi Victory Fund event at the home of Ann and Gordon Getty Monday night in San Francisco raised nearly \$2.5 million of that 7-day total.

## **THE NUMBER TWOS ...**

**-- MCCARTHY'S MILLIONS ... HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER KEVIN MCCARTHY** raised **\$8.75 MILLION** in the first quarter of 2018, a gigantic haul for the California Republican as the GOP tries to hang onto control of the House. McCarthy also transferred **\$2.9 MILLION** to the NRCC. His joint fundraising committee with **VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE** gave **\$1.2 MILLION** to vulnerable Republicans. McCarthy has done events for 40 members in D.C. and across America, helping them raise **\$1.3 MILLION**.

**-- SENATE MAJORITY WHIP JOHN CORNYN'S MAJOR HAUL ... THE TEXAS REPUBLICAN** has raised more than **\$7.1 MILLION** between his committees for Senate Republicans this cycle, including **\$6.6 MILLION** for the NRSC this year, and **\$500,000** into members' or candidates' campaign accounts.

**OUR COLLEAGUE** Burgess Everett noted that the Texas Republican -- currently No. 2 in the Senate GOP -- is the odds-on favorite to succeed **SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL (R-KY.)**, who is showing no signs of leaving anytime soon.

**SPOTTED:** House Majority Whip Steve Scalise dining with Jake Tapper in a back booth at Capital Grille last night.

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Chevron:** Chevron and local partners are helping to provide DOERS with the hands-on technical training needed for today's jobs in the manufacturing and energy industries. Watch the video: <https://politi.co/2q750qE> \*\*\*\*\*

**BIG NEWS -- NYT'S MAGGIE HABERMAN and MIKE SCHMIDT: "Trump Sought to Fire Mueller in December":** "In early December, President Trump, furious over news reports about a new round of subpoenas from the office of the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, told advisers in no uncertain terms that Mr. Mueller's investigation had to be shut down.

**"The president's anger was fueled by reports that the subpoenas** were for obtaining information about his business dealings with Deutsche Bank, according to interviews with eight White House officials, people close to the president and others familiar with the episode. To Mr. Trump, the subpoenas suggested that Mr. Mueller had expanded the investigation in a way that crossed the 'red line' he had set last year in an interview with The New York Times.

**"In the hours that followed Mr. Trump's initial anger over the Deutsche Bank reports, his lawyers and advisers worked quickly to learn about the subpoenas, and ultimately were told by Mr. Mueller's office that the reports were not accurate, leading the president to back down."** <https://nyti.ms/2GRgtRo>

**CNN'S PAMELA BROWN, GLORIA BORGER, EVAN PEREZ, JEFF ZELENY, DANA BASH and DAN MERICA: "Trump considering firing Rosenstein to check Mueller"**  
<https://cnn.it/2JPICj>

-- **TUNE INTO** the Hill today to see if this changes any of the leaders' minds about whether they should pass legislation to shore up Robert Mueller's job. Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have said they don't believe it's necessary to ensure that Trump can't fire the special counsel. They've both hinted at assurances they've gotten, but refuse to say what the assurances are and who gave them. Senators outside the leadership have tried -- with little luck -- to move a bill to protect Mueller. <http://bit.ly/2v2P11v>

**RYAN, MCCONNELL**, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn go to the White House tonight for dinner.

**WAPO'S PHIL RUCKER -- @PhilipRucker:** "Just got off phone with Alan Dershowitz, who was at the WH tonight for dinner with Trump, Kushner and others. He said he was there to advise on Middle East policy. Asked whether they talked Russia/Mueller, he said, 'I'm not going to discuss what I discussed with the president.'"

## **THE INVESTIGATIONS ...**

-- **AP'S JONATHAN LEMIRE and JAKE PEARSON: "FBI raids cast spotlight on Michael Cohen, Trump's fixer":** "Cohen, 51, first caught Trump's eye in the early 2000s when, as a member of the condo board at a Trump property, he took it upon himself to wade into a nasty dispute between Trump's management company and some residents at a skyscraper near the United Nations.

**"So Trump said, 'Who is this guy? My lawyers that I give thousands of dollars to couldn't do it. I'd like to meet him,'" said Dr. Morton Levine, Cohen's uncle.**  
<http://bit.ly/2qn9SIg>

-- **"Raids on Trump's Lawyer Sought Records of Payments to Women,"** by NYT's Mike Shear, Matt Apuzzo and Sharon LaFraniere: "The F.B.I. agents who raided the office of President Trump's personal lawyer on Monday were looking for records about payments to two women who claim they had affairs with Mr. Trump as well as information related to the

role of the publisher of The National Enquirer in silencing one of the women, according to several people briefed on the investigation." <https://nyti.ms/2H9XdSF>

-- **ABOUT THOSE RAIDS: "Michael Cohen to CNN: FBI was 'professional, courteous, respectful' in raids, counter to Trump's depiction,"** by CNN's Don Lemon: "The comments contrast with President Donald Trump who complained Monday that agents 'broke into the office of one of my personal attorneys.'

**"I am unhappy to have my personal residence and office raided.** But I will tell you that members of the FBI that conducted the search and seizure were all extremely professional, courteous and respectful. And I thanked them at the conclusion,' Cohen said in a phone conversation on Tuesday with CNN. Asked if he was worried, Cohen said; 'I would be lying to you if I told that I am not. Do I need this in my life? No. Do I want to be involved in this? No.' The raid was 'upsetting to say the least,' he added." <https://cnn.it/2vorIW6>

-- **"Dana Boente, former top Justice Department official now at FBI, has been interviewed by Mueller and turned over notes,"** by WaPo's Matt Zapotosky: "Dana Boente, the former acting attorney general who now serves as general counsel at the FBI, has been interviewed by the special counsel's office and turned over handwritten notes that could be a piece of evidence in the ongoing investigation into whether President Trump obstructed justice, according to people familiar with the matter.

**"Boente was interviewed some months ago by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's** team on a wide range of topics, including his recollections of what former FBI director James B. Comey told him about troubling interactions with Trump." <https://wapo.st/2qmFoGa>

**PRUITT FILES -- EMILY HOLDEN: "Exclusive: EPA removes staffer who OK'd report on Pruitt's security":** "EPA removed a career staffer Tuesday who approved an internal report that undermined Administrator Scott Pruitt's claims that he needed around-the-clock bodyguards and other expensive security protection, according to two former agency employees familiar with the situation. Mario Caraballo was the deputy associate administrator of EPA's Office of Homeland Security, which in February concluded that an earlier assessment failed to identify credible direct threats against the administrator that would justify his heavy security spending." <https://politi.co/2HdFidD>

-- **"E.P.A. Assesses Threats on Twitter to Justify Pruitt's Spending,"** by NYT's Eric Lipton, Lisa Friedman and Ken Vogel: "The [EPA] has been examining posts on Twitter and other social media about Scott Pruitt, the agency's administrator, to justify his extraordinary and costly security measures, which have included first-class travel and full-time protection

even on personal trips to Disneyland, the Rose Bowl and college basketball games, according to interviews and agency and congressional documents.

**"The social media efforts have come under scrutiny by some Democratic** lawmakers, as well as senior officials at the E.P.A., who said the review had uncovered individuals sounding off against Mr. Pruitt but had found no actionable threats against him. One top E.P.A. official said in an interview that he had objected to the efforts when they were first discussed last year, to no avail." <https://nyti.ms/2EA055H>

## **THE JUICE ...**

-- **REAL NEWS ... JOHN BOEHNER** and **BILL WELD** are joining the board of advisors of Acreage Holdings, "one of the nation's largest, multi-state actively-managed cannabis corporations." The news release says: "While we come at this issue from different perspectives and track records, we both believe the time has come for serious consideration of a shift in federal marijuana policy." **More here** <http://bit.ly/2qngSVD>

-- **THE WING** opened its doors in Georgetown last night. The much-anticipated private women's co-working space and social club was packed last night as women across the city came out to check out the new space.

**SPOTTED:** Founder Audrey Gelman, Giovanna Gray Lockhart, Jennifer Nedeau Helm, Rebecca Haller, Penny Lee, Stephanie Cutter, Annie Karni, Jenni Lim, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Edith Gregson, Meredith McPhillips, Ashley Parker, Jayne Sandman, Meghan Milloy, Kasie Hunt, Kaitlan Collins, Kirsten Walker, Chelsea Manning, Jenna Lowenstein, Constance Boozer, Milagros Joye Brown and Charlotte Sellmyer.

**SPOTTED:** Tiffany Trump -- with her security detail -- at the Safeway on L Street, between 5th and 6th streets, NW, buying caramel "make your own latte" creamer, half and half and Reddi-wip.

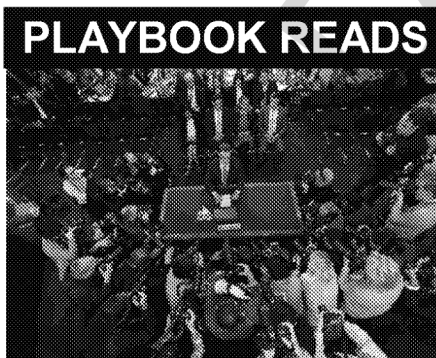
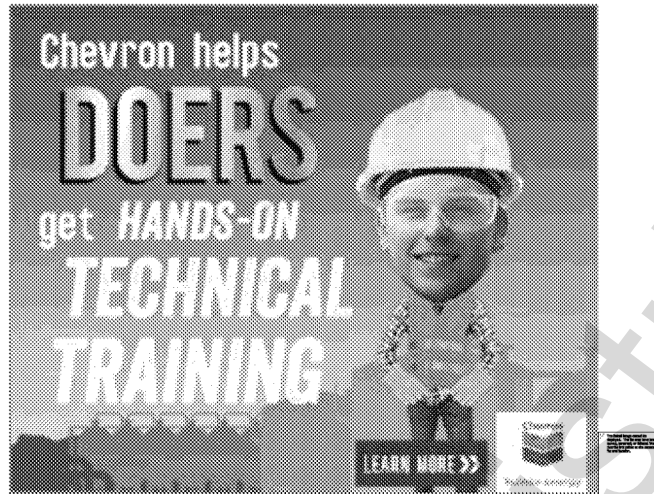
**TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY** -- The president will sign an online sex trafficking bill at 11 a.m. He will have lunch with VP Mike Pence and have dinner with Congressional Republican leaders.

-- **WE HEAR** that McCarthy is up at the White House twice today. Once for the bill signing, and again for dinner.

**VARIETY'S 2018 POWER OF WOMEN NEW YORK IMPACT LIST.** CAA's Rachel Adler ... CNN's Brooke Baldwin ... CBS's Margaret Brennan ... MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski ... Meghan McCain ... ABC's Martha Raddatz ... Fox News' Marianne Gambelli ... MSNBC's Joy-Ann Reid

... NBC's Hoda Kotb, Savannah Guthrie and Libby Leist. **The full list of 69**

<http://bit.ly/2Hs1VbQ>



**PHOTO DU JOUR:** Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives to testify before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees on Capitol Hill on April 10. | Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP Photo

**POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL ... STEVEN SHEPARD: "Poll: Nearly half support sending troops to border"** <https://politi.co/2v7lCDz>

-- **"Video shows U.S. agents trying to dump injured man over Mexican border,"** by NBC News' Julia Ainsley: "A video obtained by NBC News shows U.S. Border Patrol agents attempting to break international law by forcing an injured and mentally unstable man back into Mexico by falsely claiming that he is not in their custody, failing to identify him and assuming he is Mexican because 'he looks like it.'"

**"U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) provided the video** after a whistleblower first alerted NBC News to the existence of the footage. The anonymous videographer was ready to film the encounter because Mexican agents had identified the area as a place where

American agents frequently tried to deport migrants covertly, according to a source close to the Mexican government." <https://nbcnews.to/2GMk8ns>

**THE GUARDIAN ... "World leaders to miss union of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle":**

"Donald Trump, the U.S. president, and his predecessor, Barack Obama, have not been invited to the 19 May ceremony, and Theresa May and other UK political leaders are not expected to attend in any official capacity, it is understood." <http://bit.ly/2IGRYXX>

**BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Amid FBI investigation, Ohio House Speaker Cliff**

**Rosenberger resigns,"** by Cincinnati Enquirer's Chrissie Thompson and Jessie Balmert in Columbus: "Under investigation by the FBI for his lavish lifestyle, Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger resigned late Tuesday, effective May 1.

**"This inquiry has the potential to be very demanding and intensive,** and could take months or even years to resolve,' he said in a statement. 'Ohioans deserve elected leaders who are able to devote their full and undivided attention to (lawmaking). ... 'I take this step with full confidence in my ultimate vindication.'

**"The FBI's interest in Rosenberger,** one of Ohio's most powerful politicians, ranges from his worldwide travel to his use of a donor's luxury condo, several people briefed on the investigation told The Enquirer." <https://cin.ci/2qn55GR>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Chevron:** See how Chevron with local partners are helping DOERS get the hands-on technical training needed for jobs in the energy and manufacturing industries. Watch the video: <https://politi.co/2q75oqE> \*\*\*\*\*

**KOCH WORLD -- "Koch Bodyguards Got Police Badges From Same Tiny Town as**

**Mercer,"** by Bloomberg's Zachary R. Mider and Zeke Faux: "Bodyguards for the family of billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch used police badges from a tiny New Mexico town that authorized them to carry concealed weapons in all 50 U.S. states, according to documents seen by Bloomberg News.

**"The Lake Arthur police department that awarded the badges** for volunteer service is the same one that for years provided a similar perk to Robert Mercer, the 71-year-old New York hedge fund manager and a key financial backer of President Donald Trump." <https://bloom.bg/2qlqLTA>

**FOR YOUR RADAR -- "State And Local Republican Officials Have Been Bashing**

**Muslims. We Counted,"** by BuzzFeed's Hannah Allam and Talal Ansari: "A state lawmaker in Oklahoma refused to meet with Muslim constituents unless they replied to a questionnaire



asking if they beat their wives. A Nebraska state senator suggested that any Muslim wanting to enter the United States be forced to eat pork first. And a Rhode Island legislator advocated herding Syrian refugees into a camp, writing in an email that Muslims seek 'to murder, rape, and decapitate anyone who is a non-Muslim.'

**"Those are among dozens of examples of state and local Republican politicians** and officials publicly attacking Islam in 49 states since 2015, typically with impunity, according to a BuzzFeed News analysis." <https://bzfd.it/2HdFtpj>

**REALITY CHECK -- "Xi's vow to cut auto tariffs is less than meets the eye,"** by Doug Palmer, Megan Cassella and Adam Behsudi: "Chinese President Xi Jinping's promise to reduce auto tariffs is not the win for President Donald Trump that it appears to be. While Trump praised Xi's proposals on Twitter - 'Very thankful for President Xi of China's kind words on tariffs and automobile barriers,' he posted - analysts and business leaders shrugged off Xi's promises to open markets as old pledges that have yet to be fulfilled.

**"They also dismissed his vow to reduce auto tariffs** as inconsequential without other, larger changes. 'The Chinese are great at saying what folks want to hear,' said a U.S. industry aide." <https://politi.co/2v4mHMf>

**MEDIAWATCH - MARIE HARF** and **GUY BENSON** are the new hosts of a FOX News Radio show called "Benson and Harf" that will premiere Monday, May 7 and air weekdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

---

## PLAYBOOKERS

**SPOTTED:** former Rep. Scott Garrett (R-N.J.) at Union Station eating at Thunder Grill.

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- Brad Klapper**, who was the AP's national security editor, has just resigned from the AP, to join Qorvis as SVP of media relations. He was previously State Department correspondent and reported from more than 70 countries.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Becca Slaughter**, chief counsel for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and nominee for the FTC, and **Justin Slaughter**, a partner at Mercury Strategies, welcomed Philippa 'Pippa' Hope Slaughter, who weighed in at 7 lbs, 10 oz, 20 inches. Her confirmation hearing is today and a Schumerland alum notes: "She and her husband are bringing their three kids. Lots of nominees bring their kids. But they are bringing their baby Pippa, who was born last Monday. That's right, Becca gave birth eight

days ago, and she's (1) testifying and (2) bringing the baby to the hearing." **Pics**

<https://politi.co/2Hb3vkS> ... <http://bit.ly/2JxS44Z>

**OUT AND ABOUT -- Pool report:** "Bloomberg Washington and bureau chief Craig Gordon hosted a celebration in honor of the First Amendment and Senior White House Reporter Margaret Talev's tenure as White House Correspondents' Association president. Guests sipped The Talev cocktail (Woodford Reserve and sour cherries) ... Fun fact: The First Amendment is carved along the perimeter of the bureau. Guests literally stood on the First Amendment."

**SPOTTED:** Jarrod Agen, Molly Ball, David Bradley (who gave Talev a copy of the Atlantic from 1875), Tim Burger, Danielle Burr, Meghan Burris, Carl Cannon, Margaret Carlson, Ben Chang, Kerri Chyka, Kevin Cirilli, Steve Clemons, Giovanna Coia, Kellyanne Conway, Jessica Ditto, Anita Dunn, Linda Douglass, Sam Feist, Antonia Ferrier, Ninio Fetalvo, Howard Fineman, Hogan Gidley, Tammy Haddad, Alex Hinson, Steve McMahon, Cassie McNamara, Zeke Miller, Andrea Mitchell, Vanessa Morrone, Grover Norquist, Heather Podesta, Ryan Williams, Anu Rangappa, Brad Rateike, Susan Rice, Eric Schultz, Sean Spicer, Natalie Strom, Neera Tanden, Steve Thomma and Catherine Valentine.

**BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday):** RIAA CEO Cary Sherman turned 7-0 (hat tip: Jonathan Lamy) ... Emily Stier, an alum of WH Drug Policy and Team Boehner (h/t Kate Constantini)

**BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Christopher Malagisi**, editor in chief of the Conservative Book Club. **How he got his start in his career:** "I spent a very memorable summer as a U.S. House of Representatives congressional page in high school when Newt Gingrich was still speaker, and was a White House intern in the Vice President's Office of Legislative Affairs in college. My first week of interning at the White House was the week of 9/11 - an unbelievable front row seat to history." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2JA63Y2>

**BIRTHDAYS:** Ethel Kennedy is 9-0 ... Meghan McCann, special assistant to the senior counselor in the office of the White House chief of staff ... Janet Montesi, special assistant to the White House press secretary ... Alex Phillips, press secretary for Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) ... Ed Skyler, Citi's EVP for global public affairs and former NYC deputy mayor for operations ... Erika Masonhall, who does comms for news partnerships at Facebook (h/ts Tucker Bounds and Meredith Carden) ... Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Tex.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is 63 ... William P. Lauder is 58 ... J.D. Harrison, executive director of strategic comms for the U.S. Chamber (h/t Blair Latoff Holmes) ... former Rep. Mark Kennedy (R-Minn.), president of the University of North Dakota, is 61 ... David Wofford ... Sydney Rubin ... Castlen Kennedy ... Missi Tessier of Cogent Strategies ... Michele Ballantyne, EVP of public policy and industry relations at RIAA ... Marcia Hale, president of

Building America's Future Education Fund (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Laura Braden Quigley ... Abigail Sigler ... Christian Science Monitor's Henry Gass ... Hayley Richard, a newly minted staffer at DDC Public Affairs (h/t Michael Meehan) ...

... **Marc Ross**, co-founder of Caracal Strategies and founder and CEO of Brigadoon ... Politico's Boris Seka ... Nina Verghese of Locust Street Group (h/t Allison Schneider) ... Aaron Bennett (h/t Christian Mesa) ... Mariel Saez, press secretary for Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (h/t Mitchell Rivard) ... Tucker Bourne (h/t Kelly Klass) ... Manuel Ortiz ... Raelyn Johnson, executive producer at MSNBC ... Donna Borak of CNN ... Kate Warren of Devex ... Chris Gates ... Hillary Alvaré ... Benjamin Bryant ... Sebastian Silva ... Joshua Lapidus is 28 ... Edelman's Jon Berrier is 36 ... Paul Arden, director at SKDKnickerbocker, is 31 ... Kevin O'Neill ... Don Graves ... Alex Douglas ... Vinnie Nordmann ... Linda Lipsen, CEO at AAJ (h/t Randy White) ... Julie Tarallo, Sen. McCain's comms director ... Sarah Beth Lowe ... Nancy Yacoub ... Jacob Peterson is 33 ... Kim Aagaard ... Julie Westfall, deputy politics editor at L.A. Times ... Jim Parenti ... Jamie Sterling ... Adam Kramer ... Jake Peterson is 33 ... Elliott Suthers ... Bob Fois is 56 ... William Hamby ... Gil Gross ... Beth Osborne ... Bret Funk ... Sharon Haselhoff ... Danny Vega (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Sara Norris ... Teresa Thomas-Boyd ... Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 77 (h/t AP)

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Chevron:** See how Chevron with local partners are helping DOERS get the hands-on technical training needed for jobs in the energy and manufacturing industries. Watch the video: <https://politi.co/2q750qE> \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBSCRIBE** to the Playbook family: **POLITICO Playbook** <http://politi.co/2lQswbh> ... **Playbook Power Briefing** <http://politi.co/2xuOiqlh> ... **New York Playbook** <http://politi.co/1ON8bqW> ... **Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9> ... **New Jersey Playbook** <http://politi.co/1HLKltF> ... **Massachusetts Playbook** <http://politi.co/1Nhtq5v> ... **Illinois Playbook** <http://politi.co/1N7u5sb> ... **California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPl> ... **London Playbook** <http://politi.co/2xfDPuK> ... **Brussels Playbook** <http://politi.co/1FZeLcw> ... **All our political and policy tipsheets** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX>

[View online](#)

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>

---

**POLITICO**

---

This email was sent to [abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov) by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

ED\_004171\_00000003

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

---

Not for Public Distribution

Message

**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman [politicoplaybook@politico.com]  
**Sent:** 3/15/2018 5:06:39 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Business Roundtable: What Bill Gates will talk about with Trump at their afternoon meeting

[View online version](#) | [Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.](#)

POLITICOPLAYBOOK  
Power Briefing

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Business Roundtable

By JAKE SHERMAN ([sherman@politico.com](mailto:sherman@politico.com); [@JakeSherman](#)), ANNA PALMER ([anna@politico.com](mailto:anna@politico.com); [@apalmerdc](#)), DANIEL LIPPMAN ([daniel@politico.com](mailto:daniel@politico.com); [@dlippman](#)) and ZACH MONTELLARO ([zmontellaro@politico.com](mailto:zmontellaro@politico.com); [@ZachMontellaro](#))

**Good Thursday afternoon. A RECAP OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH BILL GATES ...**

**What he'll talk about in his meeting with President Trump:** "I have two clear messages.

One is about foreign aid, where we're partnered with the government, to help articulate why -- even if you just look at the benefit to America of stability, disease being less likely to come here -- that this is very beneficial; that having those strong relationships, maintaining that commitment, continuing to tune it; that there's great things that are coming out of that.

**"And that's been my primary message.** Because of this budget increase, a second message for me will be that there's an opportunity to take on some tough unsolved problems. One that I would highlight is that the preparedness we have for a pandemic, either a naturally caused pandemic or a bioterrorism intention caused pandemic, we don't have the tools, the preparedness, the capacity to deal with that."

**... On Trump's "America First" rhetoric:** "Yeah, I don't agree with the 'American First' rhetoric. That is, I think the alliances that we've built over time and the help we've provided to countries, uplifting them ... have made the world a more stable, a richer place." ...

**.. On if he'll shift Trump's rhetoric:** "No, I'll take his framework and explain why things like health security and continued foreign aid, even in that narrow framework where you give no credit for saving lives in Africa, kind of pure humanitarian things, even without that, this is money well spent." ...

**... On the importance of foreign aid:** "The story of foreign aid is that you allow countries to lift themselves up so they become self-sufficient. ... [I]t's hard for me to understand the notion that helping people who are poorer than we are is a bad thing. It's kind of in the Bible!" ...

**... On Washington's response to social media, post-2016 election:** "Do these platforms polarize people in a way that exacerbates trends towards polarization that are already taking place, and do they allow foreign influence that shouldn't be allowed or trolls, hate speech, to come on and affect people's views? Those are super interesting questions in a democracy. ... The specific recommendations about what [social media companies] should do [in response to bad actors], I find fairly vague." **Full video of the interview** <http://politi.co/2FLJyNq>

**WELCOME TO THE JOB, LARRY! -- @realDonaldTrump** at 7:11 a.m.: "Larry Kudlow will be my Chief Economic Advisor as Director of the National Economic Council. Our Country will have many years of Great Economic & Financial Success, with low taxes, unparalleled innovation, fair trade and an ever expanding labor force leading the way! #MAGA" ...

**... at 9:26 a.m.:** "We do have a Trade Deficit with Canada, as we do with almost all countries (some of them massive). P.M. Justin Trudeau of Canada, a very good guy, doesn't like saying that Canada has a Surplus vs. the U.S.(negotiating), but they do...they almost all do...and that's how I know!"

**-- WHAT TRUMP TWEETED IS NOT TRUE.** The office of the United States Trade Representative writes that the "U.S. goods and services trade surplus with Canada was \$12.5 billion in 2016." <http://bit.ly/2FDrnO5> ... **The WaPo story that likely triggered the tweet, where Trump said he made up a claim on trade in a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** <http://wapo.st/2IqpDW8>

**NOT PLAYING NICE -- "White House disregarded Republican investigators' requests. The GOP has been reluctant to fight back,"** by McClatchy's Anita Kumar: "The White House has refused to comply with all three investigations by the Republican-controlled House into the questionable behavior of President Donald Trump's top aides, including Cabinet secretaries and son-in-law, Jared Kushner. And Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are being criticized for accepting no for an answer rather than subpoena the documents.

**"The investigations involve three of the biggest controversies** at the White House since Trump took office -- aides using private email for government business, spending taxpayer

money on costly private airplane travel and holding interim security clearances for long periods of time while handling the nation's secrets. ....

**"During his tenure as Oversight Committee Chairman,** Rep. Gowdy has sought information from the White House in three separate investigations, but the White House has defied the committee's requests every time -- with absolutely no repercussions,' Cummings told McClatchy. 'It is now clear that the White House will not respond to this committee unless it is compelled to do so. Unfortunately, Republicans continue to wall off the Trump administration from real oversight.'" <http://bit.ly/2FJqyiM>

**TRUMP ON STAFF CHANGES,** per today's pooler Todd Gillman of the Dallas Morning News: "The story was very false. They wrote a story about staff changes and it was very false. ... Mike Pompeo is going to be an incredible secretary of state. We have some wonderful ideas. ... There will always be change but very little. It was a very false story. A very exaggerated and false story. But there will always be change. And I think you want to see change. I want to also see different ideas."

**\*\*\*\*\* A message from Business Roundtable: Smart regulation benefits America's workers.** Regulations are essential to protecting our environment and the safety of American workers - but our nation needs a smart, balanced approach that does not impose unnecessary burdens on job creation, economic growth, and American competitiveness. Learn more [here](#). \*\*\*\*\*

**ON THE SAME PAGE -- "UK, US, Germany, France unite to condemn attack on ex-spy,"** by POLITICO Europe's Zach Sayer and Maxime Schlee: "The leaders of France, Germany, the U.S. and U.K. united on Thursday to condemn the nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy in Britain, saying there was 'no plausible alternative explanation' other than Moscow being responsible. 'This use of a military-grade nerve agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War,' the countries said in a joint statement. ...

**"The allies called on Russia to answer questions** related to the attack, and said Moscow's 'failure' thus far to respond to the U.K.'s inquiry 'further underlines its responsibility.'" <http://politi.co/2Is9zDn>

**-- "U.S. imposes new sanctions on Russian entities over 2016 election meddling,"** by Elana Schor, Andrew Restuccia and Cory Bennett: "The Treasury Department on Thursday slapped new sanctions on two dozen Russian entities and individuals for interfering in the 2016 election and conducting a series of damaging cyberattacks.

**"The administration is confronting and countering** malign Russian cyber activity, including their attempted interference in U.S. elections, destructive cyberattacks, and intrusions targeting critical infrastructure,' Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. "These targeted sanctions are a part of a broader effort to address the ongoing nefarious attacks emanating from Russia." <http://politi.co/2FLqsr1>

**2018 WATCH -- JOE BIDEN** endorsed Susie Lee, who's running in Nevada's 3rd congressional district. It's his first congressional endorsement this cycle (besides Conor Lamb), according to the DCCC.

**FOGGY BOTTOM DISCORD -- " Emails reveal conservative alarm over 'Obama holdovers' in Trump administration,"** by Nahal Toosi: "[An article about a career staffer], which appeared in an obscure online publication called Conservative Review, had caused a stir among conservative activists and incoming Trump officials who were busy trying to establish who [Sahar] Nowrouzzadeh was -- and whether she could be purged.

**"According to emails obtained by POLITICO,** the agitators included former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who sent the article to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's chief of staff; and an official who falsely claimed in an email to top Tillerson aides that Nowrouzzadeh 'was born in Iran,' and also that she had wept after Trump's election. ...

**"The exchanges provide a window** into the intense suspicion - critics call it paranoia - of senior Trump officials towards the career staffers they inherited upon taking over the government, especially in the realms of foreign policy and national security. In one email, a staffer was described as 'a leaker and a troublemaker' while another was branded a 'turncoat.'" <http://politi.co/2DvaZcC>

**ENTRIES FOR THE PLAYBOOK POOL ARE NOW CLOSED! --** The first tournament games tipped off at noon, so all brackets are now final. A sampling of who you're competing against: Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Sean Spicer, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, NBC's Chuck Todd, NYT's Jonathan Martin, CNN's Jake Tapper and Wolf Blitzer, Fox News' Bret Baier, 15 governors and many more.

**OUR PICKS: Jake and Anna** both have Villanova over North Carolina in the finals ... **Daniel** has Kansas over Xavier ... **Zach** has Virginia over Michigan State. **Check your bracket** <http://bit.ly/2Ga22bL>



-- **DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US** tonight for an informal watch party at **WILLIE'S** (our official Playbook Pool partner) in Navy Yard during the evening games (which tip-off at 6:50 p.m.) for #PlaybookPool discounts and specials. **Willie's website** <http://bit.ly/2HBLtVE>

**ON THE WORLD STAGE -- PAGING JARED: "U.S. officials: Saudi crown prince has hidden his mother from his father, the king,"** by NBC News' Carol Lee and Courtney Kube: "[T]here is one Saudi woman whom U.S. officials say has not benefited from the prince's rise: his own mother. Fourteen current and former senior U.S. officials told NBC News that intelligence shows Prince Mohammed bin Salman -- often referred to by his initials MBS -- blocked his mother from seeing his father, King Salman, more than two years ago and has kept her away from him as the young prince rapidly amassed power.

"Prince Mohammed, a key ally of the Trump White House, has concocted various explanations of his mother's whereabouts over the years, such as that she's out of the country receiving medical treatment, so King Salman would not know his son has been behind her continued absence, the current and former officials said."

<http://nbcnews.to/2Du4xmf>

**MEDIAWATCH -- JAMES ANDREW MILLER** in The Hollywood Reporter: **"John Skipper Details His ESPN Exit and a Cocaine Extortion Plot"** <http://bit.ly/2Iqq3fa>

-- **"Big radio station owner files for bankruptcy,"** by CNN's Sherisse Pham and Brian Stelter: "iHeartMedia, the operator of 850 stations across the United States, submitted the paperwork on Thursday. Its rival Cumulus, the operator of 445 stations, did the same thing a few months ago." <http://cnmmon.ie/2DutJca>

**SPOTTED:** Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) along with Kevin Gundersen, Rob O'Connor, Luke Burke and Chaim Starkey last night at the Trump Hotel ... retired Gen. Wesley Clark this morning at the New York Athletic Club

**OUT AND ABOUT -- WHITE HOUSE DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- SPOTTED** at Tyler Ross' going away party last night at the Hamilton -- Wednesday was his last day as deputy director of media affairs at the White House: Hogan Gidley, Lindsay Walters, Helen Fierre, Kelly and Frank Sadler, Natalie Strom, Ninio Fetalvo, Kelly Love, Giovanna Coia, Ashley Mocarski, Annie LeHardy, Carolina Hurley, Janet Montesi, Sofia Boza, Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio), Hillary Gross, Heather Swift, Alex Hinson, Andrew Parkinson, Ja'ron Smith, Andrew Giuliani, Adam Kennedy, Jeff Freeland, Andy Koenig, Emma Doyle.

**SPOTTED** last night at a Hoover Institution dinner at the Hamilton featuring senior fellow Niall Ferguson, author of the new book "The Square and the Tower: Networks and Power,

from the Freemasons to Facebook" - (**\$19.49 on Amazon** <http://amzn.to/2FD75Eh>): David Frum, Bob Hillman, Ben Domenech, Jon Deckard, Katie Glueck, John Hudson, Autumn Brewington, Alice Lloyd, Eli Lake, Emily Esfahani Smith, Vic Matus, Tracy Wilkinson, Doyle McManus, Annie Linskey, Matt Continetti.

**SPOTTED** last night at a screening of the movie "12 Strong" at the National Archives, hosted by the Motion Picture Association of America and the Atlantic Council -- (**trailer** <http://bit.ly/2IpWzho>): Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Charlie Rivkin, Jane Harman, Fred Kempe, Christine Wormuth, retired Lt. Gen. David Barno, Michael Vickers, Adrienne Arsht, Pierre Agius, Caroline Atkinson, Kathleen Biden, Trey Herr, Andrew Baskett, Sam Ide, Paige Ennis, Tracy Bernstein, Stephen Flanagan, Jason Gorey, Geoff Lamb, Lloyd and Ann Hand, Morgan Ortagus, Capricia Marshall, Antoine van Agtmael, Ron Saleh.

**TRANSITIONS -- Kristina Baum** will be the next communications director for the House National Resources Committee. She was previously at Chevron Phillips Chemical. ... **Paxton Baker** is opening up a D.C. office for the marketing firm Liquid Soul DC. Baker is the chairman of the board of the Congressional Award Foundation and a minority owner of the Washington Nationals as well as the Washington Kastles.

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Business Roundtable: A 21<sup>st</sup> century American economy demands a 21<sup>st</sup> century regulatory system.** As America's economy continues to improve as a result of tax reform, it's essential that we also take action to bring federal regulations into the 21st century. Outdated permitting processes, along with antiquated rules and regulations, slow down growth, delay new investments in our economy, and diminish America's competitiveness. Efforts to bring America's regulatory system into the 21st century are already making a difference. Continuing to modernize regulations will benefit America's workers and our economy. Learn more [here](#). \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBSCRIBE** to the Playbook family: **POLITICO Playbook** <http://politi.co/2lQswbh> ... **Playbook Power Briefing** <http://politi.co/2xuOiql> ... **New York Playbook** <http://politi.co/1ON8bqW> ... **Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9> ... **New Jersey Playbook** <http://politi.co/1HLKltF> ... **Massachusetts Playbook** <http://politi.co/1Nhtq5v> ... **Illinois Playbook** <http://politi.co/1N7u5sb> ... **California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPl> ... **London Playbook** <http://politi.co/2xfDPuK> ... **Brussels Playbook** <http://politi.co/1FZeLcw> ... **All our political and policy tipsheets** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX>

[View online](#)

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>

# POLITICO

---

This email was sent to bowman.liz@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

---

Not for Public Distribution